

App. No. 09/997,057

Amendment Dated: November 2, 2005

Reply to Final Office Action of September 16, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer-readable first data structure, comprising:

a first definition data field defining the first data structure as a first namespace, the first definition data field including a locally modifiable common name portion and a global unique identifier portion, wherein the common name portion is locally associated with the first namespace and the unique identifier portion is globally associated with the first namespace, the common name portion being configured to locally identify the first namespace in a human-readable manner, the unique identifier portion being configured to globally distinguish the first namespace from other namespaces to allow the first namespace to be imported into ~~one or more~~ of the other namespaces without a conflict associated with the common name portion.

2. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the first definition data field for the first namespace further comprises an element configured to indicate that the first namespace may be changed.

3. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1, further comprising a computer-readable second data structure, comprising:

a second definition data field defining the second data structure as a second namespace;
and

an import data field including a local name declaration configured to identify the first data structure for import into the second data structure, the import data field configured to identify the first data structure by the common name portion and the unique identifier portion.

4. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 3, wherein the second namespace further comprises an export data field including an atomic name by which at least a portion of the second namespace is published for use by other computer-executable components.

5. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 3, wherein the import data field further comprises a local name declaration that assigns a local name to the first namespace within the scope of the second namespace.

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6. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 5, wherein a declaration made in the first namespace is accessible in the scope of the second namespace by reference to the local name assigned to the first namespace.

7. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 6, wherein a conflict between the common name portion associated with the first namespace and a declaration made in the second namespace is resolved with reference to the unique identifier portion.

8. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components, comprising:

a first namespace having a localized common name and a globally unique identifier, the first namespace including a plurality of declarations; and

a second namespace having an import declaration that causes the first namespace to be included within the scope of the second namespace, the import declaration defining a local name that identifies the first namespace by the localized common name and the globally unique identifier such that a declaration within the plurality of declarations in the first namespace is accessible in the scope of the second namespace by reference to the local name for the first namespace.

9. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the second namespace further comprises an export declaration that makes at least a portion of the first namespace available outside the second namespace in association with a second common name.

10. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 8, further comprising a third namespace importing the second namespace and assigning to the second namespace a second local name such that the declaration within the plurality of declarations within the first namespace is accessible in the scope of the third namespace by reference to the second local name for the second namespace.

11. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the third namespace forms a namespace hierarchy having the first namespace as a root and the second and third namespaces as importers.

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12. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first namespace incorporates a legacy namespace and makes available any declarations within the legacy namespace as elements of the first namespace.

13. (Currently amended) A computer system that uses namespaces, comprising:
a first namespace having a first common name and a globally unique identifier, the first namespace including a plurality of declarations; and

a second namespace having an import declaration that causes the first namespace to be included within the scope of the second namespace, the import declaration defining a second common ~~local~~ name that identifies the first namespace by the first common name and the globally unique identifier such that a declaration within the plurality of declarations in the first namespace is accessible in the scope of the second namespace by reference to the second common ~~local~~ name for the first namespace.

14. (Original) The computer system of claim 13, wherein the second namespace further comprises an export declaration that makes at least a portion of the first namespace available outside the second namespace in association with a second common name.

15. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 13, further comprising a third namespace importing the second namespace and assigning to the second namespace a third ~~second~~ local name such that the declaration within the plurality of declarations within the first namespace is accessible in the scope of the third namespace by reference to the third ~~second~~ local name for the second namespace.

16. (Original) The computer system of claim 15, wherein the third namespace forms a namespace hierarchy having the first namespace as a root and the second and third namespaces as leaves.

17. (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein the first namespace incorporates a legacy namespace and makes available any declarations within the legacy namespace as elements of the first namespace.

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18. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for creating a namespace, comprising:

declaring a first namespace with a globally unique namespace identifier, the first namespace including a first localized common name and a plurality of declarations;

importing the first namespace into a second namespace using the globally unique namespace identifier and a second localized common name local name;

accessing a declaration within the plurality of declarations in the first namespace within the scope of the second namespace by reference to the second localized common name local name.

19. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, wherein the second localized common name local name for the first namespace comprises the first localized common name common name.

20. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, wherein the second localized common name local name for the first namespace comprises an alias assigned to the first namespace.